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BLACKMAIL

Hard-Hitting Article from the "Daily Express"

On May 7th this year, West German Chancellor Adenauer announced in West Berlin that Soviet-American talks on the German problem, and in particular the West Berlin problem were "useless" and "boring".

On May 9th, the London "Daily Express" printed the following article, which sums up the Adenauer-Kennedy squabble particularly well:

The long postwar honeymoon between the U.S. and West Germany is over.

Chancellor Adenauer publicly slaps President Kennedy by making it clear that he will not support the U.S. "package deal" to settle the Berlin problem with Khrushchov.

In justifiable rage Kennedy, who now realises that after grasping the huge U. S. "marriage settlement" of economic and military aid, the 86-old Chancellor means to give nothing in return, dismisses the German Ambassador in Washington.

Note the Teutonic timing of Adenauer's announcement in Berlin on Monday — the day after the NATO agreement giving far-reaching nuclear concessions to Germany was safely signed in Athens.

The purpose of these concessions, which ensure that U. S. and British nuclear weapons would be used to defend Germany against Russia, was to smooth the way for the "package deal" on Berlin.

This includes a promise to the Russians that neither the U. S. nor Britain will ever give the Germans independent nuclear weapons or the know-how to make them.

The Russians insist on this because they fear that if the German Chancellor gets full control of H-bombs, his patience over Berlin might be exhausted as quickly as Hitler's was over Danzig.

Now, having secured the concessions intended to recompense him for this promise, Adenauer tries to wreck the whole Berlin deal. He says he will not co-operate on arrangements for ensuring Allied road and air access to Berlin, which is the main U. S. and British aim.

"It is much better for things to remain as they are", he claims.

Berlin is a nuclear flashpoint which will threaten the world until it is settled. But just as a welcome lull comes into the cold war, Adenauer makes it clear that he wants no settlement which could prejudice his objectives.

These, which in the official document "Germany Reports" are stated as clearly as those in "Mein Kampf", are to secure reunification of East and West Germany, remake Berlin

(cont. on next page)

REC'D JUN 19 1962

NOW THAT THE HONEYMOON IS OVER:

"To bite the hand that fed you! Thank heavens Foster Dulles never lived to see this day!"

(cartoon from "Daily Express", London)

(cont. from front page)

BLACKMAIL

into the Reich capital, and recover the territories across the Oder and Neisse rivers lost to Poland.

The U. S. and Britain have made it clear that any settlement with Russia on Berlin will have to recognise that these objectives are impracticable in the foreseeable future.

But thanks to 15 years of U. S. aid Adenauer can now exert political blackmail to prevent a settlement ...

Adenauer has successfully applied this type of blackmail before. When the Germans wanted to extend their military bases they began undercover negotiations with Spain and made sure that they "leaked".

A link-up with non-Nato Spain caused such an uproar that Panzers were immediately invited to train in Britain and bases were provided in France and Belgium ...

As a result of further NATO manipulations, Adenauer's nuclear ambitions, which could be summarised in the slogan "Instant atoms — just add Russians," has now been adopted. Allied Forces stand on the Elbe ready to use nuclear weapons against any intrusion on to German soil.

In Berlin, Adenauer said: "I have complete confidence in the U. S. to defend West Berlin and West Germany." But the U. S. does not relish the burden of doing this forever.

Neither does Britain, who has 3,000 expendable troops in West Berlin and a £77,000,000 a year bill to Adenauer, including £30,000,000 paid to German auxiliaries.

Ever since the war's end the Americans have been dewy-eyed about the Germans, considering them the perfect ally for stemming the Russians in Europe. The British repeatedly warned them that double-dealing is a standard German stratagem.

But, charmed by the ruthless efficiency, they ignored the open books of history.

They soured world opinion by shelving their pledge to make Krupp disband his empire. To strengthen Germany with unilateral arms deals, they weakened their alliance with Britain.

Now they are genuinely astonished to find that the Germans are using all this strength to play power politics against them.

Yesterday, many faces in Whitehall wore "We told you so" smiles at the U. S. discomfiture. But this is no time for humour. Adenauer's powers of international blackmail are now so strong that I rate his Berlin announcement as one of the most dangerous "Achtungs" the Germans have ever sounded in Europe.

The only way the West can neutralise his power is to make it clear — with or without his support — that the line which now divides East and West is as permanent as the Communist régime.

("Daily Express", London, May 9th 1962)

"RELAXATION AHEAD" — Walter Ulbricht

A period of relaxation of tension in the German problem lies ahead, Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic, stated in an interview with two Soviet editors, published in Moscow and Berlin on May 8th. "These new developments will make possible not only negotiations between the Governments of the two German states, but will also lead to an open and peaceful competition between the German states" he said.

"It is a good sign that at the moment there are internal differences in all the main parties in West Germany. This is a reflection of the longing of the whole West German population for a peaceful solution of the German problem."

In his interview, Walter Ulbricht dealt at length with the various suggestions made in east and west for some form of international body to supervise transit traffic across the 100 miles of GDR territory which divide West Berlin from West Germany. He said:

"I have proposed that the Government of the German Democratic Republic would be ready to consider the establishment of an international arbitration body, to which users of the transit routes to West Berlin could apply if they felt that measures taken by the GDR were not in accordance with the relevant agreements which will have to be concluded. This offer is undoubtedly a compromise on our part. We are ready to make such a compromise in order to make it easier to reach agreement on a peaceful solution of the West Berlin problem, and thus to contribute towards peace in Europe. Before we could take such a step, it would naturally be necessary to make the appropriate changes in the status of West Berlin: the occupation regime, the centres of cold war, and the subversive centres in West Berlin would have to disappear, and West Berlin would have to become a peaceful, demilitarised neutral Free City.

"If the governments of the western powers are, as they claim, only interested in the well-being and freedom of the West Berliners; if they wish to establish on a proper legal basis free and unhindered access to West Berlin, for which there is at present no treaty basis; then it should be possible to find a solution which meets all justified and sensible demands.

"Some western newspapers have published details of proposals for an international body which would in practice be vested with full rights over important lines of communication of the GDR. I simply cannot take such proposals seriously. The GDR is neither the colony nor the protectorate of an imperialist power; it is not a territory outside international law. There can be no question of some international body abrogating the right to infringe the sovereignty of the GDR and assuming administrative functions on the territory of the GDR.

"We are ready, on the basis of a sensible legal settlement of the West Berlin problem, to supervise 100 percent of the transit traffic, in accordance with international law. At the same time we are ready to accept an international arbitration body for settling the differences of opinion which might of course arise. This is a generous, sensible and realistic offer which meets the interests of West Berlin and the interests of the western powers. In considering the whole question it must always be remembered that at present neither West Berlin nor the western powers have any valid legal title for free access to West Berlin.

"Any settlement of the question of access to West Berlin inevitably entails a recognition of the sovereignty of the DGR, and such access must

only serve peaceful purposes. There can be no question of ensuring access to a NATO base in West Berlin.

"Our proposals accord with international law, and there are precedents in international law for the regulation of access rights in cases somewhat similar to that of West Berlin.

"Let us take for example the case of the HQ of the United Nations on American territory. For transit to the UN HQ, the US authorities issue entry visas to the USA. Under the terms of an agreement signed in 1947 the American authorities pledged themselves to place no obstacles in the way of persons proceeding to UN HQ to carry out specific assignments. Paragraph 12 of this agreement states specifically that these transit facilities are to be extended without regard to relations between the US and the state interested in visiting UN HQ. Despite the extraterritorial rights of the UN HQ, the Americans have the right to supervise travel to and from UN HQ."

Turning to the wider question of disarmament and relations between the two German states, Walter Ulbricht stated:

"The GDR submitted to the 18-State Disarmament Commission in Geneva a memorandum proposing the establishment of an atom-free zone in central and northern Europe, and a zone of arms limitation which should include the two German states. In addition we have made suggestions for the total disarmament of the two German states. Unfortunately, our suggestions have so far been rejected by the West German Government. We believe that the two German states have the duty to make a particular contribution to disarmament, since in the first half of this century Germany was twice the starting point for world wars.

"It is not easy for Adenauer to maintain his obstinate stone-walling attitude in the face of world public opinion. When Adenauer recently visited President Kennedy, the President asked him why he was afraid of negotiations with the GDR, since after all West Germany is bigger than the GDR. This is a question which is asked by many people in America and Britain."

In the interview Walter Ulbricht gave a condensed summary of German history since 1945. He stated:

"From the very beginning the anti-fascist and democratic forces in Germany have pursued a consistent policy aimed at a peaceful solution to the German question. In 1945 we assumed that the anti-fascist democratic path would be taken in the whole of Germany. I should like to recall the fact that in Berlin we established a united administration for the whole of Berlin, consisting of a coalition of Communists, Socialists, Christians, and middle-class elements. In the same way we suggested that a central administration consisting of representatives of all four occupation zones should be established. This should be the first step to the establishment of a united, democratic and peaceful Germany, which, after the elimination of nazism and militarism, should work out its own constitutional order with the help of a National Assembly elected by the whole German people.

"We wanted the unity of the anti-fascist and democratic forces, and the defeat of the fascist and military forces, to take the form of an open and democratic struggle. Unfortunately this path was barricaded as the result of the partitioning of Germany by the western powers, by Adenauer's signature of the Paris Agreements against the will of the people, and by the integration of West Germany in NATO.

"The policy of the West German Government was to win the controlling position in western Europe through NATO, and then to drag its allies into the aggressive adventures planned by the revanchists.

"Because of its policy in the past and the present, German big business has lost all claim to lead Germany. Only the working class, in co-operation with all democratic forces, can give the German people a happy and secure future. Put bluntly, this means that a unification between capitalism and socialism in Germany is inconceivable. The reunification of Germany can only be accomplished by the victory of socialism in the German Democratic Republic on the one hand, and the defeat, by the progressive forces in West Germany, of militarism and imperialism in West Germany on the other hand. This realistic view of the situation means that it is urgently necessary to pursue a policy of peaceful coexistence between the two German states.

"Peaceful coexistence and rapprochement between the two German states in a Confederation would gradually make it possible to establish normal relations betwenn the two states, and thus clear the way for future reunification. The first step that must be taken is the conclusion of a peace treaty, and the conversion of West Berlin into a demilitarised Free City."

Dangerous Thoughts

Police squads went into action all over West Germany in early May to track down and confiscate 30,000 copies of a pamphlet which had been legally imported and legally sold there.

The pamphlets contained the full text of the new party programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, decided upon in 1961. A month or two ago, a West German publishing house imported 30,000 copies, in German, from the Soviet Union, after receiving the usual import licence from the West German authorities.

After nearly all the copies had been sold, a Dusseldorf court ruled that the document "endangers the safety of the state", and ordered police to search the publishing house and seize all copies. The police not only confiscated all unsold copies, but also the correspondence of the publishers and all address lists. They then proceeded to search the editorial offices, libraries and private houses of persons and institutions which had ordered copies.

The staunchly anti-Communist West German newspaper "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung", commenting on the police action, stated:

"Newspapers like the 'New York Times' published the full text of this Soviet document: our paper published extracts. Does this mean that in future, if our newspapers publish 'state-endangering' Soviet documents, they will have to reckon with confiscation?"

Anti-Semitism Dead?

Half the West Germans queried in a recent spot check by a West German TV team gave anti-Semitic replies to questions. The results of the poll were quoted in a West German TV programme on May 6th. Detailed results showed that of 1000 men and women questioned on street corners and in a Catholic Seminary, 463 gave anti-Semitic replies, and 129 refused to answer or had no opinion.

Here are some of the questions asked, and answers given:

Question: "Could a Jew be a cabinet minister in the Federal Government?"
Answers: "I can't express an opinion". — "Not really. I was never a nazi, but I think we have enough Christians."
Question: "Could a Jew be an officer in the Bundeswehr?"
Answers: "As a former German soldier, I would say no." — "No comment". — "No, no, we can't have that".
Question: "Do you think it was right to persecute the Jews in the Third Reich?"
Answer: "That is a difficult question. But if we follow the Bible, then a persecution of the Jews is justified ..."

Through French Eyes

Paris Paper Takes a Look at Germany

On this page we present extracts from articles on West Berlin and the German Democratic Republic, first published in the Paris newspaper "Combat" on May 3rd, 5th and 14th:

East Germany is still largely unexplored territory. The information which we receive is often distorted in one way or another by hostile propaganda. One thing is certain: the GDR exists, and its recognition by the western powers is only a question of time. Our correspondent Jean Benoit has visited West Berlin, and then travelled through East Germany from Dresden to Rostock.

West Berlin. West Berlin has become the new Salonika for the Crusaders of the Cold War. In the past "Combat" has often commented upon the role which this "western shop-window" plays for the various West German espionage services — the Federal Intelligence Agency (BND), and Military Counter-Intelligence (MAD), both of which cooperate with the trans-Atlantic CIA. John Granfield, one of Washington's best agents, lives quite officially in West Berlin at 14 Taylor Strasse, and organises, together with various western officials, the spies who still cross the frontier.

General Gehlen, former officer of the Wehrmacht, organises the BND with the same masterful touch with which he once organised the spy services for Hitler. In West Berlin many anti-communist or patriotic associations, such as the "Association of Former Volunteers of the East Front" which has its headquarters in Munich, serve as a cover for neo-fascist movements.

These include members of the "German-Ukrainian Society", and the Baltic supporters of the "re-conquest of the territories east of the Elbe and Oder" ... Many of these refugees left for West Germany many years ago, but some have remained in the western sectors of Berlin and are amongst the most trusty supporters of Mayor Willy Brandt.

Harry Ortmann, chairman of the "German Federal Youth Ring and Berlin Youth Ring" publishes the magazine "Blickpunkt". In this magazine the GDR is always described as "Middle Germany", and the former German territories which now form part of Poland and Russia are called "East Germany". There is a similar spirit in the West Berlin press, which is mainly in the hands of infamous former nazis such as Karl Silex, editor of the "Tagesspiegel" and Arno Scholz, editor of the "Telegraf", who played a role in 1939 in the extermination of the Jews.

West Berlin is today only apparently a capital. The city has a completely artificial economic system. It is a cosmopolitan city, and permanent western "exhibition" in the heart of Communist Germany, but this exhibition consists of lights and facades. Darkness and anxiety dwell in the offices and the empty apartments. More than 20% of the financial firms and businesses have reduced their operations since August 13th 1961, or have completely suspended operations. This development has strengthened in recent weeks, following the Rusk — Gromyko discussions.

East Germany. — In the west people told me: "You will see for yourself, East Berlin is an area of perpetual night, a desert, a zone of silence. The workers are completely exhausted by their high working norms. They have only one wish: to flee the Communist world and to return to 'the old times'."

But when I spoke with workers, peasants, officials, and with students in East Berlin, they nearly all connected the expression "the old times" with the period of the Nazis and the Junkers, times which have long past and have been banished for ever to the museum.

And what about the "desert"? I found cities in which there are no idle people, but also no tramps and no parasites. They are cities of work, where everybody, man, woman, and child, is encouraged to work or study for a better future.

A student made the following declaration: "Now that we have done so much, we have no intention of sacrificing our future. We are not so silly as to abandon these things which we have begun to build, now that we are so near to our goal and have begun to reap the first fruits of our labour."

Nearly everybody feels a great enthusiasm in working on the construction of a new country, ready to win one of the greatest prizes in history.

Between 1958 and 1960 the purchasing power of the population rose by 8,600 million marks, and in 1961 investments totalled nearly 17,000 million marks. Since 1960 more than 100,000 new housing units have been built. The state devotes 2% of the budget to defence, and 86% to the economy and education ...

If there has been a "German economic miracle", then it was on this side of the Elbe. In the past ten years the GDR has greatly increased its trade, and built up an industry, although its potential was relatively weak (5 blast furnaces compared with 120 in West Germany), and although labour was relatively short.

Rostock in the North of Mecklenburg was, 15 years ago, only a tiny harbour with a university and a minor aircraft industry. Since then the aircraft factory has been converted to make argricultural machinery and a huge new harbour and shipyards have been built.

In the harbour 2,000 dockers unload the ships which bring goods from London, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Cuba, Helsinki and elsewhere. The GDR exports ores, calcium sulphate, pig-iron, and soft coal; and imports goods such as meat from France, sugar from Cuba, fruit, coffee and non-ferrous metals. This year the habour will handle goods weighing over four million tons. 20% of the ships built in the shipyards are exported, mainly to the Soviet Union, Cuba and Iceland. In 1958 the GDR had 140,000 tons of shipping; by 1965 it will possess 480,000 tons.

In 1945 practically all industry in the Eastern part of Germany was destroyed, and the conversion of a more or less peasant country into an industrialized country has been very rapid, and sometimes painful. In the past ten years the production of soft coal has increased from 137 millions tons to more than 225 million tons; steel production has increased from 1 million tons to 3.3 million tons; power production has increased from 19.5 thousand million to 40.3 thousand million kilowatt hours.

Socialist planned economy has done a job which capitalist industry would undoubtedly have been incapable of doing. The chemical industry is today four and a half times as big as it was in 1936. Today the chemical industry accounts for 15% of total industrial production and in absolute volume it gives the GDR the sixth place in the world after the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, West Germany and France.

ALL "RED PROPAGANDA"?

Weighty US Survey Corroborates GERMAN REPORT

For many years, GERMAN REPORT has been warning its readers in all parts of the world about the dangers of the nazi revival, in all its forms, in West Germany. Some people, though they are a declining number these days, brush off such warnings as "Red Propaganda".

For their information we are reprinting on these pages extended extracts form a valuable and scholarly book "West German Leadership and Foreign Policy", published in 1957 in the United States by Rand Corporation, a big business foundation untainted by even the faintest trace of "liberalism" or "progressive thought". The book was edited by Hans Speier, described as "consultant to the Department of State and the Ford Foundation". Below are the extracts, dealing with different aspects of West German life today. It should be noted that when the authors speak of "Germans" and "Germany", they specifically mean "West Germans" and "West Germany" throughout.

The Foreign Office Bureaucracy

By and large, the old stock of the Foreign Office managed to survive not only the Third Reich, but also denazification procedures. A small proportion of the present officials suffered persecution of one type or another under the Nazis... Of the majority who had been able to retain their positions during the Hitler era, only a few were actually rejected because of concessions they had made to National Socialism.

Attitudes toward the Civil Service

What has been called, since 1945, "restoration of the civil service" involves not only principles and structure but also personnel. Except for the younger new appointees, today's service is made up largely of pre-1945 officials. Restoration of the civil service has meant restoration of the service that existed under the Nazis, except for those few in certain leading positions who derive from the Weimar service. Though as we have indicated, this situation does not in itself imply "renazification", even some German officials are not so sure that it does not entail serious political dangers, especially in connection with another "number" group, the so-called "131'ers." This group includes both expellee officials from the East and officials dismissed or suspended after 1945 for Nazi connections or activities. (Mixing these two categories, expellees and "politicals," itself created a condition widely exploited in order to obfuscate the political problem involved.)

A federal law of May, 1951, based on Article 131 of the Bonn constitution, gave members of this group a legal right to reinstatement, regardless of their former position or activities under the Nazis. Only former Gestapo officials were still barred. Many officials who were never Nazis themselves feel that these "131'ers" are "career brethren", who do not constitute a political danger any more. Most of the latter, it has been said, were small fry who had joined the Nazis under pressure or for opportunistic reasons, and even those who formerly had been active were now unpolitical.

In fact, it is the rare official today who voices Nazi views openly. Even among "131'ers" it is difficult to find anyone who admits that he even was really connected with Nazism. In general, those who have been reinstated seem to have no major complaint against the present regime; in this sense it may be said that they are satisfied. After all, the new regime did treat them leniently. But this is far from a positive commitment, and to some officials, at least, it seems dangerous to have uncommitted former Nazis in policy-making positions, such as the Foreign Office, or to use them as instructors of German youth. Even those who play down this danger admit that the "131'ers" form cliques and try to promote themselves and their comrades, meanwhile maligning those officials, such as the "1945'ers", who did not have to undergo "sacrifices" but "profited" by the temporary absence of the regular civil servants.

Some of the officials who had temporarily been removed for Nazi activities have not stopped at organizing themselves as "victims of denazification," demanding indemnification for "illegal detention", and trying to further their own interests by pressure-group activities. More ominous is the pressure they occasionally exercise on official policy. For example, when those in high positions mix into cases which they regard as having political implications — such as the prosecution of Nazi criminals — and thus try to intimidate the officials in charge, this intervention tends to undo the work which democratic officials still attempt to perform here and there.

Attitudes toward Law and Justice

The relatively minor role played by the concept of law is further revealed in connection with Nazi criminality, a problem that affects officials specifically concerned with the administration of justice. What to do about crimes committed by Germans under the Nazi regime has come to constitute the very touchstone for the German people's attitude toward its recent past. It has been pointed out above that in this as

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in other connections Germans are split into two camps: the relatively few who accept the problem and its challenge and try somehow to come to grips with it; and the majority who forget and repress if they do not apologize and excuse. The bureaucracy does not deviate significantly from this over-all picture. Since most of the present officeholders served the Nazi regime in one or another capacity, they apparently feel that they have to defend themselves and their own conduct by denying the necessity of punishing Nazi criminals. The failure of Nuremberg and the other Allied war crimes trials in their effect on the German people is nowhere more apparent than in the fact that the very term "war crime" (always used in quotation marks) has become synonymous with unfairness and miscarriage of justice, and "war criminal" with "victim of enemy revenge."

The Allies' attempt to distinguish between mere political error in siding with the Nazis, on the one hand, and commission of actual crimes, on the other, is dismissed or forgotten even among legally trained officials. Nazis or war criminals are thereby put into the same class to which most officials vaguely feel that they themselves belong, namely, the class of those who more or less actively supported the regime and its policies. As one official (not a Nazi) put it, almost everybody has succeeded in working out his own, personal philosophy of exculpation, so that even those who were formerly fervent Nazis are now convinced that they never were. They therefore readily believe that others were no different, and are genuinely surprised if one tells them that Nazi generals, for instance, were not tried and sentenced merely because they were generals, but that in each case they were indicted for specific crimes.

Even when this distinction is explained to them, most officials still try to evade the issue. "Why insist on stirring up the past?" they ask. Since any crime Germans may have committed can be considered as having been compensated for by corresponding crimes on the part of their enemies, they say, one should let the dead bury the dead and be ready to forgive and forget. One should now concentrate on the common job facing Germans and their former Western enemies alike. Nazism, after all, was only a "weak replica" of something more terrible: communism.

If this is the prevalent attitude among legally trained officials, one should not be surprised to find that they view indulgently the reluctance of German authorities to prosecute Nazi crimes. Courts, as one judge said, occasionally still have to take up the case of some member of the Nazi elite guard (SS) or storm troops (SA) — usually after the press has built up the case — but they do so reluctantly. The few prosecutors who still strongly believe in seeing that justice is done admit that it is almost impossible to get such cases prepared; legal niceties and other obstructions continually slow them down... In those rare instances where a Nazi crime eventually gets to trial, convictions are hard to obtain. There is no more forceful evidence of the weakness among German officials of the concept of equal justice under law than this refusal on the part of the very practitioners of the law to apply it to Nazi criminality, and the strange arguments proffered as pretexts for inaction. It is illustrative of a broad tendency among officials to display a "pro-rightist" and "anti-leftist" bias whenever a case occurs in which there are political implications, while avoiding any explicit and general commitment to a particular political philosophy. Communists and Nazis, in particular, are weighed with a different measure. As one official (who himself opposed such bias) put it: "If a Communist does something like attacking an opponent in a street brawl, it is 'sadistic terror' to the police, to the courts, and to public opinion as voiced in the press; if it is done by a rightist radical it is pardonable and pardoned." This is the same bias that characterized much of Weimar administration and adjudication.

Nationalism

It is in some such framework as this that one must appraise the evidence as to the persistence of Nazi and nationalist attitudes among the German people. There is a large collection of public opinion surveys bearing on these problems. What they suggest is that some 30 per cent of the German adult population appraise the Nazi experience favorably, roughly another 30 per cent appraise it unfavorably, while the remaining 40 per cent have mixed views. The size of this middle, "uncommitted" group reflects the extent to which there is conflict and ambivalence in the German mind with regard to the Nazi past. As occupation controls have been relaxed, there has been increasing readiness on the part of Germans to express favourable or mixed attitudes toward the Nazis. Business respondents do not display patterns consistently different from those of most of the other occupational groups. Only in the professional occupations are the respondents consistently more critical of the Nazi past, more in favor of democratic institutions, and less nationalistic in their foreign policy attitudes.

While it would be a serious error to conclude that Germans are unregenerate and ready to revert to Nazism and extreme nationalism at the first opportunity, the evidence does suggest that there are nationalist trends in German public opinion which favor an assertive and independent foreign policy course. At the present time, this trend toward independence and assertiveness is overtly reflected in more or less acute dissatisfaction with a number of specific situations and limitations. Some of these dissatisfactions are distributed generally among the population; others are more specific to particular groups in the population.

FREE OFFER

Photos, in colour and black and white, fill the pages of GDR Review, the handsome monthly magazine about life in the GDR. The June issue contains articles about women's rights, a juvenile court in the GDR, fighting polio, a factory soccer team, as well as the regular features on fashions, science and technology, culture and readers' letters. For a sample copy and details on subscribing, write:

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This offer applies only to readers outside the GDR.

Murderers on Trial

Six SS mass murderers went on trial in West Berlin on May 14th, charged with killing at least 11,000 men, women and children in the western part of the Soviet Union in 1941.

The accused all occupied responsible positions in West Berlin or West Germany before their recent arrest. The main accused, Dr Alfred Filbert, former SS major, was until his arrest the director of a bank in West Berlin. Bodo Struck, former SS captain, was in charge of detective police in Hanover, West Germany. Gerhard Schneider, former SS lieutenant, was a senior civil servant in Lower Saxony. Konrad Fiebig, member of the SS execution squad, was an officer in the West German military intelligence service. Heinrich Tunnat, former SS lieutenant colonel, was drawing a large pension as a retired Gestapo official. Wilhelm Greifenberg, former SS major, was a well-to-do businessman in Toeging, West Germany.

In the opening stages of the trial the SS officers claimed that they had not murdered 11,000 persons but "only" about half that number, and had then falsified their report to SS headquarters.

Under cross examination, Dr Filbert admitted that he had given orders for mass executions, but claimed that he himself had shot in the air because he did not want "to burden his conscience". Most details of the murders appeared to have slipped from his memory but he repeatedly complained to the court that he had had to sleep on the floor when he arrived at Vilnius, occupied Lithuania.

A number of prominent West Germans called as witnesses in the case submitted medical certificates as an excuse for not attending. Dr Schulz, former Gestapo man and today police officer in Bremen, claimed that he had had a heart attack, and Dr Six, former prominent SS officer, today a leading West German business man, claimed that he was "run down".

West German Money for OAS

The West German firm Gelsenberg Benzin AG has been financing the OAS, the French fascist secret army in Algeria, the East Berlin newspaper "BZ am Abend" reported on May 15th. One of the directors of this company is West German minister Hans-Christoph Seebohm. The company advanced large sums of money to the murder gang in return for future oil rights in Algeria.

DIPLOMATIC NOTES FROM ALL OVER

1. The Case of the Censoring Storm-Trooper

The West German Embassy in London has officially protested to the British Foreign Office and the Independent Television Authority against a TV play broadcast on May 6th. The TV play, "Night Conspirators" showed how West German nazis in key positions in the state, army, big business and the church might plot to restore Hitler to power if he turned up alive today. West German Ambassador Hasso von Etzdorf demanded the right to censor such plays in future, stating "Plays like this must never be shown again on British TV".

Background note: Ambassador Hasso von Etzdorf joined the Nazi Party in 1933, was a Leutenant Colonel in the Storm Troops, and served in the nazi diplomatic service throughout the Hitler era.

2. The Case of the Incompatible Envoy

West German Chancellor Adenauer announced on May 8th that he would be forced to recall the West German Ambassador to Washington Dr Wilhelm Grewe. "I have to recall him because some people in Washington do not like his nose; others do not like his ears" stated Adenauer. The Washington correspondent of "The Times" of London reported on May 8th: "Grewe is leaving Washington because President Kennedy made it known that he was 'incompatible' ... His reports were prejudiced, his attitude on Berlin was extremely negative, and the result of his activities in Washington was to inflame West German sentiment ... President Kennedy directed the State Department not to consult with the Ambassador, particularly on matters concerning Berlin and NATO ... The West German Government being what it is, there seems no certainty that normal relations can be reestablished at all levels immediately."

Background note: Ambassador Wilhelm Grewe joined the Nazi Party in 1933, lectured at the nazi University of Politics, and wrote articles glorifying nazi aggression and opposing use of the Geneva Convention for POWs.

3. The Case of the Tactful Diplomat

"In Ethiopia my acquaintances describe the (West) German Embassy in these terms: Arrogant, tactless, lacking knowledge ... In a bookstore (in Addis Abeba) I met a young gentleman from the Embassy. He was talking with an interesting woman, who spoke rather broken German. When she left the shop, I asked him who the woman was. I said I had seen a concentration camp tatoo mark on her arm: perhaps she was a Jewess. 'Oh,' said the diplomat in surprise, 'and she seemed so nice'."

"Welt am Sonntag", West Germany, May 6th

Background note: West German Ambassador to Ethiopia is Paulus von Stolzmann, who joined the Nazi Party in 1933 and served in the nazi diplomatic service throughout the Hitler era.

4. The Case of the Desecrated Grave

Members of the staff of the West German Embassy in Cairo desecrated the grave of German Dr Thomas Bilharz on May 9th by tearing off a wreath placed there by the GDR Consul General. The wreath, which bore the colours and emblem of the GDR, had been placed on the grave in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the death of Dr Bilharz, who discovered the cause of the disease bilharzia, named after him.

Background note: West German Ambassador in Cairo, Dr Walter Weber, is an exception: he does not appear to have been in the Nazi Party. He served in the nazi diplomatic service throughout the Hitler era.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

The late lamented Admiral Horatio Nelson (you know, the man with the column), is obviously not the only admiral with a blind eye. His unworthy successor would appear to be US Admiral Buie, who recently led a large US fleet into the Baltic for a "friendship visit" to the West German naval base at Kiel.

During the journey, his fleet encountered a mine-sweeper of the GDR People's Navy, and describing the encounter at a press conference in Kiel on May 4th, Admiral Buie positively boasted of his professional blindness. After announcing that his fleet had met a Soviet naval vessel and had exchanged the usual courtesy signals (did the Admiral really expect the Soviet vessel to blow the marine equivalent of a raspberry?), he continued: "Then we met a mine-sweeper of the East German navy. This vessel simply ignored us." Which might seem rude, but read on. "Even if this vessel had rendered the usual courtesies, we would have ignored them", the Admiral stated. "We have no diplomatic relations with the Soviet Zone. For us their ships do not exist." It is interesting to speculate what might have happened if the GDR vessel had been sailing across the bows of the American fleet. Since it did not exist, the US ships would presumably have run it down: or does Admiral Buie make a detour to avoid ghosts?

Perfect Reactionary

A few issues ago, GERMAN REPORT quoted Hughes Mearns' famous verse "As I was going up the stair I met a man who wasn't there." We thought it described rather well the reluctance of the West German Government to recognise the clear fact that there exists a place called the German Democratic Republic.

Now one of our helpful readers (and we have an amazing number of such) has drawn our attention to another and rather similar verse by the same author which is undeservedly less well known. It goes like this:

"As I was sitting in my chair
I knew the bottom wasn't there,
Nor legs nor back, but I just sat,
Ignoring little things like that."

And this small gem is entitled "The Perfect Reactionary".

While we are on the subject of verse, let me disinter a few lines, written by Sir Osbert Sitwell in 1919 and first published in the London "Nation" on July 5th of that year. Sitwell put the following lines in the mouth of Winston Churchill, who was at that time running his own private war of intervention against the young Soviet Republic:

"It is very wrong of them
To defend themselves.
They should not
Have guns or ammunition.
We cannot understand
What they are fighting for.
There are no rich men
Or private properties.
We are very anxious
To come to a compromise,
But they must give way
On every point."

I often remember these lines when some of the sillier western politicians and commentators talk about "reaching a compromise" with the Soviet Union on the German problem, and then outline total surrender.

Record Word?

The great American humorist Mark Twain had great fun with the German language, particularly its facility to string words together in apparently never-ending panoramas. The East Berlin political weekly "Weltbuehne" recalled this recently when it noted that the GDR government statistics office had hatched out a new tapeworm of a word which would have made even Mark Twain blench. The word in question deserves wider circulation; here it is in all its glory: arbeitskraefteberichterstattungspflichtig. It means, literally, "labour-force-reporting-obliged", and since that makes little sense, let me explain that it is an adjective applied to places of work which have the legal obligation to submit reports on the numbers of persons employed. If we stumble over another word which is even longer, we shall certainly present it for inspection.

Only Soviet?

Every now and then some West German newspaper comes up with the tired old allegation that "only Russian films" are shown in the German Democratic Republic. I have just been looking at comparative films statistics for East and West Germany and have discovered that, in terms of percentages, West Germany shows considerably more American films (33 %) than the GDR shows Soviet films (28 %). The GDR shows more modern German films made in both halves of Germany (23 %) than does West Germany (19 %). About one third of all the films shown in the GDR come from Western countries, mainly Italy, France and Britain.

"Far-off City"

The Washington representative of DPA, the semi-official West German news agency, recently filed the following delightful cable:

"A member of the US House of Representatives has declared that his electors did not know where Berlin was, but they would be very angry if Washington made concessions there".

Confusing

Here is a slightly confusing headline from the "Times" of London, dated May 7th:

"GERMAN CHURCH SPLIT TRANSIENT"

It seems hard on the transient, but perhaps the last word is an adjective and not a noun as it appears to be at first sight.

Philately Note

When I was glancing through our incoming mail last week, my eye was caught by an unfamiliar stamp on a letter from Oakland California. I looked more closely, and saw that it was not an American stamp at all, but a special nazi stamp issued for use in occupied Poland in 1944 to mark Hitler's birthday. Main feature of the stamp was a large portrait of Hitler himself.

Apparently the postal authorities of the USA are so keen on keeping out "Commie propaganda" that they have no time to note that outgoing mail is franked with Hitler stamps. The stamp was cancelled: "Oakland, Calif. Apr 20 1962."

But I would ask readers abroad not to repeat the experiment: our postman will start looking at us oddly if we get any more letters with stamps like this on them.

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